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Eric L. Maldonado

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Attorney Docket No. NEKU 19.296(100806-00072)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Mikio ODA, et al.
Serial No.: 10/028,238
Filed: December 21, 2001
Title: OPTICAL PATH CONTROL APPARATUS...
Examiner: Jessica T. Stultz
Art Unit: 2873

June 10, 2003

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of documents listed thereon. These documents contain information in which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

Also attached is a copy of a Japanese Office Action dated May 2, 2003 from the corresponding Japanese Patent Application. All of the documents listed in Form PTO- 1449 appear in the Japanese Office Action.

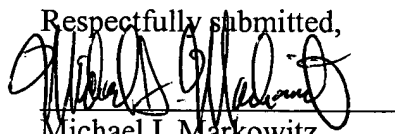
As these documents are written in a language other than English, English Language abstracts are annexed thereto explaining its relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3).

Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement, so no fee is due.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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1449/PTO	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Application No. : 10/028,238
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <u>Sheet 1 of 1</u>		Filing Date : December 21, 2001
		First Named Inventor: M. ODA
		Group Art Unit : 2873
		Examiner Name : J.T. STULTZ
		Attorney Docket No. : NEKU 19.296

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Office ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YY/Y	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		04-333004	JP	NEC CORP	11/20/1992	
		06-084455	JP	CANON INC	03/25/1994	
		09-257811	JP	CANON INC	10/03/1997	
		10-170765	JP	NEC CORP	06/26/1998	

Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check her if English language translation attached

Examiner Signature	Date Considered

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1* if possible. *Applicant to place check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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